

Message Text

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ALL NATO CAPITALS 6020

CONFIDENTIAL USNATO 2186

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, ELAB

SUBJ: AF-EUR LABOR ATTACHE CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 93107 (NOTAL)

1. WE WELCOME THE ATTENTION GIVEN IN THE PROGRAM FOR THE AF-EUR LABOR ATTACHE CONFERENCE TO SUBJECTS OF DIRECT RELEVANCE TO NATO, PARTICULARLY THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR IMPLICATIONS OF US OPPOSITION TO COMMUNIST PARTY PARTICIPATION IN WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS; THE ROLE OF LABOR IN TRANSITION FROM AUTHORITARIAN TO DEMOCRATIC FORMS IN PORTUGAL, SPAIN AND GREECE; AND EAST-WEST TRADE UNION RELATIONS.

2. WE WOULD URGE, HOWEVER, THAT AN ADDITIONAL TOPIC BE INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA: WAYS TO STIMULATE SUPPORT FOR NATO AMONG MEMBERS OF WESTERN EUROPEAN TRADE UNIONS. IN RECENT YEARS, AS MANY SENIOR US OFFICIALS HAVE NOTED, SUPPORT FOR NATO HAS DECLINED IN WEST EUROPEAN TRADE UNIONS, WHICH IN THE EARLIER YEARS OF THE ALLIANCE PROVIDED SOME OF ITS MOST VOCAL PRO-PONENTS. THIS SHIFT, LIKE THE CURRENT INDIFFERENCE, IF NOT DISAFFECTION, TOWARD NATO OF WESTERN EUROPEAN YOUTH ELEMENTS, IS IN PART A FUNCTION OF INSUFFICIENTLY EFFECTIVE EFFORTS BY

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OUR ALLIES TO MAKE LABOR AND YOUTH SECTORS AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING EFFECTIVE DETERRENCE IN A PERIOD OF TRANSITION IN EAST-WEST RELATIONS.

3. WHILE EXTENDED DISCUSSION AT THE LABOR ATTACHE CONFERENCE MAY NOT BE NECESSARY, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL, WE BELIEVE, TO US PURPOSES GENERALLY, AND SPECIFICALLY TO PROGRAMS OF THIS MISSION AND OTHERS IN EUROPE, IF THE CONFEREES COULD DISCUSS WAYS TO STIMULATE INTEREST IN THE ALLIANCE AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF CURRENT ATTITUDES TOWARD NATO IN THE WESTERN EUROPEAN LABOR MOVEMENT.

4. IF IT WOULD BE HELPFUL, THE USNATO REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CONFERENCE, FSO RALPH MOORE, WOULD BE PREPARED TO INTRODUCE THE SUBJECT, PERHAPS AS PART OF THE REGIONAL SESSION ON EUROPE (PARA 5 REFTEL).

5. MOORE'S ETA AND EDT TUNIS WILL FOLLOW SEPTEL. STRAUSZ-HUPE

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